

WELL DEVELOPMENTS

Spring 2004
Vol. 8
No. 2

BOARD OF WATER WELL CONTRACTORS

LICENSE RENEWALS

As it will soon be time to renew your licenses, we thought this is a good time to explain the renewal process. Usually license renewal notices are sent out on May 10 of each year, giving you lots of time to send in the renewal notice and fee before your current license expires on June 30.

Section 37.43.307, MCA, provides that any license which is not renewed by June 30 is considered suspended. If the license remains suspended for more than 30 days after July 1, it is considered revoked. However, before revoking the license, the Board will send a notice to the licensee of its intent to revoke. If the license has not been renewed within 10 days after receipt of that notice, it is automatically revoked and cannot be reinstated without payment of the application fee and successful completion of the appropriate exam.

Board rule ARM 36.21.415 also provides that any licensee who has not renewed his license by July 10 will pay a \$75 late fee. You will want to keep these dates in mind when you renew your license. ♦

BOND TO BE REQUIRED

Bonds are usually renewed by the surety companies by issuing a continuation certificate to the bonded person or company. This continuation certificate must be sent in with the renewal. Some licensed persons assume that the bonding company sends the continuation certificate to The Board of Water Well Contractors (BWWC), but this is not always the case. So it is important to be sure that the BWWC

has the current bond and continuation certificate at renewal time. It is helpful if the term of the bond is from June to June each year so that the continuing certificate is in your hands by the time you are ready to submit the renewal form.

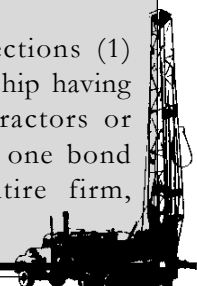
Section 37-43-306, MCA Bond to be required.

(1) The department, on issuance of a water well contractor's or monitoring well constructor's license under this chapter, shall require, before the person commences operations in this state, a good and sufficient surety bond or its equivalent in a certificate of deposit, cashier's check, bank draft, or certified check, to be approved by the board, in the sum of \$4,000, conditioned that the licensee will comply with the rules of the board.

(2) A person who is licensed in more than one category need supply only one surety bond or its equivalent in a certificate of deposit, cashier's check, bank draft, or certified check, to be approved by the board, for \$4,000.

(3) A state or federal employee who is bonded by the state or federal government is not required to supply a bond during the course of his employment with the state or federal government. A bond is required if the person ceases government employment.

(4) In lieu of the requirements of subsections (1) through (3), a firm, corporation, or partnership having more than two licensed water well contractors or monitoring well constructors may submit one bond in the amount of \$10,000 for the entire firm, corporation, or partnership." ♦



BWWC TIDBITS

VARIANCES

We want to remind you again that there is a provision in the minimum standards for water wells that covers unusual situations that might arise when you are drilling a well. This section provides that a variance must be obtained before construction of a well that does not meet minimum standards. The contractor must request the variance from the Board of Water Well Contractors office in writing. The request must contain:

- 1) the purpose of the well construction
- 2) the location of the well
- 3) the name and address of the well owner
- 4) the distance to the nearest well, septic tank, drain field, or other hazardous wastes surface or subsurface
- 5) the unusual conditions existing at the well site
- 6) the reasons that the compliance with the rules for minimum standards will not result in a satisfactory well
- 7) the proposed standards that the water well contractor believes will be adequate for his particular well
- 8) a drawing with written explanation showing the pertinent features of the proposed well design and construction

The Board office will act promptly on all requests. Applying for the variance before constructing a well that will not meet minimum standards could prevent you from having to return and construct the well to minimum standards or having action taken against your license. Variances are not, however, granted in cases where the water well contractor cannot meet the criteria outlined above. In other words, a variance will not be granted because a particular contractor doesn't want to comply with Board law and rules. ♦

WATER WELL CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBILITY – FLOWING WELLS AND DRY HOLES

A recent inquiry suggests there may be a question as to the water well contractor's responsibility in flowing wells and dry holes.

Board of Water Well Contractors' rule 36.21.658 requires that when artesian water is encountered in a well, the casing shall be adequately sealed into the confining stratum to prevent surface leakage from the artesian zone. The well must be equipped with a control valve if it flows at land surface and must be completed with seals, packers, and neat cement grout to eliminate leakage around the well casing.

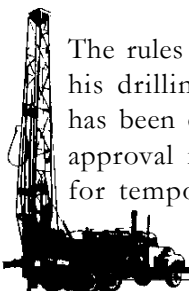
The rules also requires that the driller cannot remove his drilling rig from the well site until the leakage has been completely stopped, unless he has obtained approval from the Board of Water Well Contractors for temporary removal. ♦

TWENTY-FIVE FOOT EXEMPTION ON WATER WELLS

According to MCA 37-43-102 (7), it exempts three categories from the Boards' jurisdiction:

- 1) Spring development.
- 2) Excavations for recovery and use of surface waters
- 3) Excavations for stock watering or irrigation where the depth is 25 feet or less.

Excavations for domestic water, even if less than 25 feet deep, are not excluded unless they are merely spring development or recovery of surface water. The licensing requirements and the construction standards apply to these wells. ♦



BWWC TIDBITS

GROUTING PROCEDURES

A number of questions have been raised during the past year concerning proper grouting methods. Apparently, some people are confused as to when continuously fed bentonite can be used in drilling a well. This method is limited to cable tool and other driven methods in unconsolidated formations only, although in some instances this method has been used on wells that are completed in consolidated formations. This is not an approved use.



Specific methods for consolidated formations are addressed under ARM 36.21.655. Related rules exist for grouting of unconsolidated formations with and without significant clay beds (ARM 36.21.656 and 36.21.657), for artesian well grouting (ARM 36.21.658), and for sealing of artificial gravel pack wells (ARM 36.21.658, and for sealing of artificial gravel pack wells (ARM 36.21.659 and 36.21.660).

Some contractors place only 18 feet of grout at the top of wells completed in an aquifer, either within or overlain by a consolidated formation. ARM 36.21.655 requires that the casing extend at least 5 feet into sound, un-creviced rock. The casing's lower end must be sealed into the formation with cement grout, and the remainder of the drill hole must be filled with grout to the ground's surface. If you do not hit sound, un-creviced rock until 60 feet down, your casing must extend 50 to 65 feet, and the entire annular space must be filled to the top of the ground. In this case, the hole would contain 65 feet of grout.

The Board strongly recommends that you read and understand the rules for specific formation sealing. Also keep in mind that under the general sealing rule, ARM 36.21.654, which outlines only minimum requirements, and specific rules ARM 36.21.655 through 36.21.660, each formation may require more than 18 feet of grouting material. ♦

CONTACT INFORMATION

BOARD OF WATER WELL CONTRACTORS

General requests: Jamie Scow at (406) 444-0862 or e-mail at jscow@state.mt.us

All other requests or questions: Tom Gignoux: Weekday mornings from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and during work hours (in the field intermittent cellular coverage) at (406) 431-6643 or e-mail at tgignoux@state.mt.us

.....

NEW ADDRESS

The Bozeman Regional Office has moved to:
2273 Boot Hill Court, Suite 110
Bozeman, MT 59715
Phone: (406) 586-3136

.....

Please don't forget to send your well log reports to the MBMG--GWIC. Well log reports are NOT to be sent to the Regional Offices anymore! Thank you!

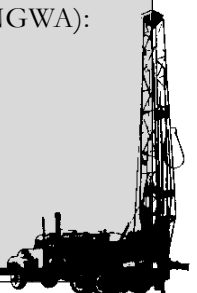
GWIC
1300 W. PARK ST
MAIN HALL 322
BUTTE, MT 59701-8997

ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

Montana Water Well Drillers Association (MWWDA):
(406) 665-3304

Montana Environmental Training Center (METC):
(406) 771-4433

National Ground Water Association (NGWA):
(800) 551-7379



BWWC TIDBITS

LAND DESCRIPTIONS ON WELL LOG REPORTS

The Lithology of the underground structures found in well log reports offers a wealth of information to geologists, contractors, and drillers in projecting the occurrence of water on certain land and at a certain depth. Information in a well log report, however, is not valid if the land description of the well location is wrong. The problem becomes more complex when an individual who is looking for information may not be able to find the well according to the land description under which it was logged. Also, the erroneous land description on the report could place the information in an area with much different actual lithology. Thus, information in the well log report would erroneously

project an occurrence of water or lack of water based on the wrong information.

In response to the question concerning who is responsible for supplying the land description, Section 85-2-516, MCA, requires a water well contractor or driller to submit a completed well log report to the Montana Bureau of Mines within 60 days after the well is completed. Because filings this report is the licensee's responsibility, and because the Department requires the land description as part of the completed report, the responsibility falls on the licensee. Some contractors have guessed at the well location because obtaining a land description from the well owner was difficult. As stated

previously, these problems result in producing a well log report of no value. A number of contractors are addressing this problem by requiring the proper land description as part of the drilling agreement with the well owner.

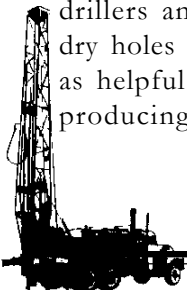
The Board of Water Well Contractors recognizes that not all contractors use drilling contracts or agreements, and also that problems occasionally arise in obtaining land descriptions. This recognition, however, does not provide a solution. The DNRC regional offices will return a well log report that doesn't include a proper land description. Filing reports late also serves as grounds for disciplinary action against a licensee. ♦

DRY HOLE WELL LOG REPORTS

The Board has noticed that licensees are not filing well log reports on dry holes. According to ARM 36. 21.679 a well log report must be filed on all dry holes. The rule also provides that dry or inadequate wells must either be constructed as though they were producing wells with proper sealing procedures followed or else properly abandoned.



The information included in the well log report benefits the GWIC database and other licensed well drillers and homeowners. Knowing the number of dry holes and their depth in a given area can be just as helpful as knowing the number and the depth of producing wells. ♦



mbmggwic DRILLER WEB

**Internet Well Log Submittal Site For Licensed
Drillers at GWIC**

March 1 was the launch date of the new internet well log entry site at GWIC: <http://mbmggwic.mtech.edu/drillerWeb/drillerMain.asp>. Licensed drillers each get an exclusive account. Drillers should apply for their account by going to the GWIC site <http://mbmggwic.mtech.edu>, and clicking on DrillerWeb. Use the "Click to request access" link to fill out your name and address and submit it. In a day or two your name will be verified through the board and your password sent to your email address. Your account will be active for as long as you are a licensed driller or contractor in Montana. The site is designed to be user friendly and is accessible from any computer with an Internet connection. You may create logs, edit logs, certify logs (which transfers them to GWIC), and print well logs for yourself and your customers. ♦



NEW LICENSEES

Water Well Contractors

Steven Berg, *Steve Berg Well Drilling*, Haugan, MT

Monitoring Well Constructors

Shawn Reddish, *MT Bureau of Mines & Geology*, Billings, MT

Paul Lemire, *Maxim Technologies*, Billings, MT

Darrell Scharf, *Golden Sunlight Mines*, Whitehall, MT

Water Well Drillers

Michael Eaton, *Raging Wolf*, Browning, MT



UPCOMING TRAINING COURSES

Board of Water Well Contractors:

Clay & Rock Identification, Local Geology & Hydrology, DrillerWeb Internet Well Log Entry

May 21, 2004

Missoula

Call 444-6643 or 444-0862

June 4, 2004

Bozeman

Call 444-6643 or 444-0862

Well Design and Remediation

July 23, 2004

Kalispell

Call 444-6643 or 444-0862

National Ground Water Association Courses and Conferences:

MTBE and Perchlorate Conference: Remediation and Public Policy

June 3-4, 2004

Costa Mesa, CA

Call 800-551-7379

Analysis and Design of Aquifer Tests

June 7-9, 2004

Dublin, OH

Call 800-551-7379

The Montana Environmental Training Center (METC) has prepared its training calendar for 2004, and BWWC has recommended several courses that qualify as approved training for water well licensees. They are as follows:

8th Annual Summer School

May 19-20, 2004

Missoula

Call 771-4433

Certification Exam

May 21, 2004

Missoula

Call 771-4433

Optimizing Activated Sludge Operation

May 25-26, 2004

Red Lodge

Call 771-4433

Glacier Park & Small Systems Seminar

May 26, 2004

West Glacier

Call 451-1151

Leak Detection: Methodologies, Water Conserv, & Economics

June 15-16, 2004

Billings

Call 771-4433

Cross Connections/Backflow Program

June 22, 2004

Bozeman

Call 454-1151

June 23, 2004

Missoula

Call 454-1151

June 24, 2004

Kalispell

Call 454-1151

How to Operate Your Lagoon

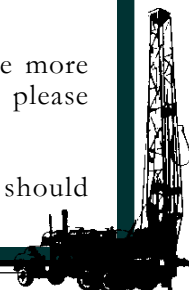
July 7, 2004

Lewistown

Call 771-4433

The Board of Water Well Contractors and METC have discussed training sessions that may be more specific to water well and monitoring well construction. If you have suggestions for training, please contact Tom Gignoux at 444-6643 or Jan Boyle at 771-4433.

Most training schools by suppliers and manufacturers begin in the spring of the year. You should contact your suppliers for upcoming schedules.



WEBSITES TO BOOKMARK

The Internet is a huge information bank, and finding what you are looking for can be time-consuming and frustrating. Provided below is a list of websites that relate to BWWC:

Montana Codes Annotated (MCA)

<http://www.dnrc.state.mt.us/wrd/montanacodesannotated.htm>

Provides the Montana statutes for BWWC

Administrative Rules (ARM)

<http://www.dnrc.state.mt.us/wrd/adminrules.htm>

Provides the Administrative Rules of Montana for BWWC

BWWC Newsletter

<http://www.dnrc.state.mt.us/wrd/home.htm>

Provides the latest BWWC newsletter, *Well Developments*

Well Log Report Forms

<http://www.dnrc.state.mt.us/wrd/home.htm>

Contains the Well Log Report Form 603 for drillers, use only to record wells drilled

Well Drilling for the Prospective Well Owner

<http://www.dnrc.state.mt.us/wrd/home.htm>

Provides valuable information for persons looking at drilling a well

License Renewal Form

<http://www.dnrc.state.mt.us/wrd/home.htm>

Provides the yearly license renewal form

BWWC Board Members

<http://www.dnrc.state.mt.us/wrd/home.htm>

Provides a list of all the board members

Ground Water Information Center (GWIC)

<http://mbmggwic.mtech.edu>

Provides ground water information

BOARD MEMBERS

Bob Bergantino, MBMG Member
Pat Byrne, Industry Member
Kevin Haggerty, Industry Member
Eric Regensburger, DEQ Member
Laurence Siroky, DNRC Member

Program Manager, Tom Gignoux

375 copies of this document were published at an estimated cost of 19¢ per copy. The total cost of \$1 includes \$71 for printing and \$116 for distribution.

Persons with disabilities who need an alternative, accessible format of this document should contact: DNRC, 1424 9th Avenue,

P.O. Box 201601, Helena, MT 59620-1601 -- Phone: 406-444-6643/Fax: 406-444-1475/TDD: 406-444-6873

Board of Water Well Contractors
P.O. Box 201601
Helena, MT 59620-1601

